

19 October 1953

STATINTL

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR:

The following story, which appeared in today's San Diego UNION, was telephoned in by [REDACTED]

MADRID, SPAIN, October 18, 1953--copyright--by Gene Fuson

The presence in Spain of a man who claims to be Beria has been established beyond reasonable doubt, high Spanish police officials permitted me to disclose today. Five witnesses have identified the man as Beria from a study of Beria pictures furnished by Spanish security police. The Spanish police are preparing a documented report on the case for Senator Joseph McCarthy, and I have been asked to deliver it to him.

For a month I have been working under cover with Spanish secret police and Fabio Gallo. In that time we have established three facts. (A) The man called Beria was waiting at the rendezvous point after my arrival in Spain. (B) He was accompanied by two other men, one a Spaniard, the other a foreigner. (C) Four persons in addition to Gallo have positively identified photographs of Beria as the man they saw at the rendezvous on the beach at Malaga and Gibraltar.

The Spanish secret police are under orders to use every facility to put me in contact with Beria and in return I promised not to publish anything that would endanger the chances of success in establishing contact. The Spanish national police have kept a tight secrecy ban on this case. It is now believed by police that Gallo is withholding information in fear of implicating close friends and relatives in Spain.

Even though several attempts to establish contact with this figure have failed, police believe the investigation has paid off because it has definitely established that the man is or was here. Police consider Spain as the logical hiding place because there are no known Communist agents operating in Spain.

(There follow five short paragraphs of recapitulation of the early story.)

The arrangements for the beach rendezvous were made as a result of a meeting Gallo said he had with the man claiming to be Beria. A second meeting was scheduled. This second meeting to deliver papers from Senator McCarthy was never held as the result of Gallo's arrest.

(The rest of the story is further recapitulation. [REDACTED] calls it "historical, not new.")

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STANLEY J. GROOM

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